

## CLAIMS

1. A method of providing an inventory of digital images comprising the steps of:  
acquiring digital images of the items for the inventory;  
transferring the images to a computer memory;  
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formatting the images in the computer;  
encrypting the formatted images;  
applying a PIN to the encrypted images; and  
transferring the formatted images to a storage medium.

10 2. A method of providing an inventory of digital images of items in predetermined rooms/categories of a household comprising the steps of:  
acquiring digital images of the items in each room/area/category of the  
household for the inventory;  
transferring the images to a computer memory;  
formatting the images in the computer by areas in the residence;  
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encrypting the formatted images;  
applying a PIN to the encrypted images; and  
transferring the encrypted formatted images to a storage medium.

20 3. A method of providing an inventory of digital images of items in predetermined rooms/categories of a business comprising the steps of:  
acquiring digital images of the items in each room/area/category of the  
building for the inventory;  
transferring the images to a computer memory;  
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formatting the images in the computer by areas of the business;  
encrypting the formatted images;  
applying a PIN to the encrypted images; and  
transferring the encrypted formatted images to a storage medium.

30 4. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
taking the digital images of the items with a digital camera; and  
storing the digital images in a temporary memory in the camera.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising:

connecting the temporary memory to the computer to transfer the digital images; and  
clearing the digital images from the temporary memory.

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6. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

taking the digital images of the items with a digital camera; and  
transmitting the digital images from the temporary memory to the computer over a wireless link.

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7. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

taking the digital images of the inventory items with a digital camera;  
generating thumb print images corresponding to the inventory images;  
storing the inventory images in a folder in a temporary memory in the camera;  
and  
storing the corresponding thumb print images in a folder within the inventory folder.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising:

connecting the temporary memory to the computer to transfer the inventory images and the thumb print images; and  
clearing the images from the temporary memory.

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9. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

storing the inventory images in an inventory folder;  
generating thumb print images corresponding to the inventory images; and  
storing the thumb print images in a folder within the inventory folder.

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10. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the storage medium is a CD-ROM or a secured server memory.

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11. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

deleting the encrypted formatted images from the computer memory.

12. A computer-readable storage medium containing data for storing the inventory of digital images as produced by the method as claimed in claim 1.

5 13. A computer readable storage medium as claimed in claim 12 which comprises:  
a number of room/area/category folders for storage of inventory images from corresponding rooms/areas/categories;  
a thumb print folder within each of the room/area/category folders for storage of corresponding thumb print images; and

10 a viewer folder for storing files for viewing the images.

14. A computer readable storage medium as claimed in claim 12 which comprises:

15 a number of room/area/category folders for storage of inventory images from corresponding rooms/areas/categories;  
a thumb print folder within each of the room/area/category folders for storage of corresponding thumb print images;  
a viewer folder for storing files for viewing the images; and  
decryption files for decrypting the images stored in the folders.

20 15. A computer readable storage medium as claimed in claim 12 which comprises:

a number of room/area/category folders for storage of inventory images from corresponding rooms/areas/categories;  
a thumb print folder within each of the room/area/category folders for storage of corresponding thumb print images;  
25 an html viewer folder for storing files for viewing the images; and  
decryption files for decrypting the images stored in the folders.

16. A computer-readable storage medium containing data for storing the inventory of digital images as produced by the method as claimed in claim 9.

30 17. A computer readable storage medium as claimed in claim 16 which comprises:  
a number of room/area/category folders for storage of inventory images from corresponding rooms/areas/categories;

a thumb print folder within each of the room/area/category folders for storage of corresponding thumb print images; and  
a viewer folder for storing files for viewing the images.

5 18. A computer readable storage medium as claimed in claim 16 which comprises:  
a number of room/area/category folders for storage of inventory images from corresponding rooms/areas/categories;  
a thumb print folder within each of the room/area/category folders for storage of corresponding thumb print images;  
10 a viewer folder for storing files for viewing the images; and  
decryption files for decrypting the images stored in the folders.

15 19. A computer readable storage medium as claimed in claim 16 which comprises:  
a number of room/area/category folders for storage of inventory images from corresponding rooms/areas/categories;  
a thumb print folder within each of the room/area/category folders for storage of corresponding thumb print images;  
an html viewer folder for storing files for viewing the images; and  
decryption files for decrypting the images stored in the folders.

20 20. A computer-readable storage medium containing data for storing the inventory of digital images wherein the data comprises:  
a number of room/area/category folders for storage of inventory images from corresponding rooms/areas/categories;  
25 a thumb print folder within each of the room/area/category folders for storage of corresponding thumb print images; and  
a viewer folder for storing files for viewing the images.

21. A computer-readable storage medium containing data for storing the inventory of  
30 digital images as claimed in claim 20 wherein the data further comprises decryption files for decrypting the images stored in the folders.

22. A computer-readable storage medium containing data for storing the inventory of digital images as claimed in claim 21 wherein the viewing files are html files.